

## FOUR MOTH SPECIES NEW TO GLAMORGAN

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DURING 1996 and 1997, a number of moth species apparently new to Glamorgan have turned up. They are the Fen Wainscot *Arenostola phragmitidis* (Hb.), Crescent Striped *Apamea oblonga* (Haw.), Dwarf Pug *Eupithecia tantillaria* (Boisd.), and the Tortricid *Ptycholomoides aeriferanus* (H.-S.).

A specimen of *A. phragmitidis* was captured on 19 July 1997, during a Glamorgan Moth Recording Group field meeting in Pant-y-Sais Fen (between Swansea and Neath). My identification was subsequently confirmed by County Recorder Barry Stewart.

According to Heath and Emmet (1983), *A. phragmitidis* was not previously known from South Wales. However, Pant-y-Sais is part of Crymlyn Bog NNR, the largest lowland fen in the region. Other Wainscots present include Obscure *Mythimna obsoleta* (Hb.), Silky *Chilodes maritimus* (Tausch.), Webb's *Archanara sparganii* (Esp.) and Twin-spotted *A. geminipuncta* (Haw.). Within days of the first capture, *A. phragmitidis* was also found at Crymlyn Bog.

A well-marked singleton of *A. oblonga* came to light at Crymlyn Bog on 4 July 1996. I had recorded another at nearby Earlswood, Crymlyn Burrows, as long ago as August 1979, but that record was unpublished, and it seems that *A. oblonga* had never been added to the Glamorgan list. Crymlyn Burrows has all the features (Salt marshes, tidal riverbanks, brackish ditches and fenlands) which Skinner (1984) lists as suitable habitat.

*E. tantillaria* (Boisd.) came to light on 12 May 1997 in an area of Birch re-growth overlooked by conifer plantation in Rheola Forest, in the Neath Valley. Presumably this species is spreading along with plantations containing its foodplants, such as Norway Spruce *Picea abies*.

A single *P. aeriferanus* (H.-S.) was captured in Crymlyn Bog on 9 July 1997. Bradley and Tremewan (1973) describe the northward and westward spread of this species since it was first recorded in Kent in 1951. Has this process continued to date? No further specimens appeared, so was it a migrant, a wanderer from an existing colony, or the first sign of colonisers arriving from the east? I would be interested to hear the view of more knowledgeable readers on this point.

### References

- Bradley, J.D. and Tremewan, W.G., 1973. *British Tortricoid Moths. Cochylidae and Tortricidae: Tortricinae*. The Ray Society.
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- Skinner, B., 1984. *Colour identification guide to the moths of the British Isles*. Viking.